Our Collaborative Team: Courtney Boniface, RDC Student Researcher | Warren Faye, President, Métis Local 845 | Jimmie Keller, Member at Large | Erin Konsmo, RDC Student Researcher | Jill Lanz, Central Alberta AIDS Network Society | Tracy Lee, Aboriginal Health Lead, Alberta Health Services | Quinn Nnigu, Member at Large | Dr. Scott Oddie, RDC Rural Health Research Chair | Dr. Krista Robson, RDC Sociology Instructor | Raye St. Deny’s, Executive Director, Shining Mountains Living Community Services | Johana Stark, RDC Student Researcher

Voices from the Fire: Vision in Truth
Positive Voices Heard and Stories Shared
A Community-Based Initiative of the Health Research Collaborative
Red Deer College, Red Deer, Alberta Canada

Our Journey So Far...
Started in March 2009

The objectives of our journey:
1) Develop a community-based perspective of HIV/AIDS to inform education, prevention and/or support strategies and ultimately reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS in Aboriginal communities;
2) Build evidence-informed decision capacity within individuals and communities; and
3) Build a foundation for respectful and sustainable research partnerships.

Anticolonial Methodologies:
Will allow Voices to function not only as a way to understand HIV/AIDS among Aboriginal communities, but to also work against and combat colonialism within central Alberta. Anticolonial methodology, or critical indigenous pedagogy (CIP), "understands that all inquiry is both political and moral. It uses methods critically, for explicit social justice purposes. It values the transformative power of indigenous, subjugated knowledge’s” (Denzin & Lincoln, 2008, p.2).

Narrative Stream:
• Rich contextual information to be collected from a diverse group
• Allows community to tell the ways that HIV/AIDS affects their people, communities, and culture
• Identify strengths within Aboriginal Culture that communities need to support

Community of Practice Stream:
• Allow for a safe space to provide supports for Aboriginal People living with HIV/AIDS
• Reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS and improve health of Aboriginal communities through knowledge exchange and transfer, now and in the future.

Methods
Storytelling Workshop
Shining Mountains Living Community Services, 2nd Central Alberta Aboriginal Conference on HIV/AIDS “Positive Changes”, December 2009

Emotional Impact and Supports
“The approaches that have been put in place or programs and services that have been put in place still haven’t feed the spiritual part of being an Aboriginal person with HIV/AIDS.”

“Emotional wellness is a very key component to that programming and getting them moving forward. Honour the culture, honour the spirits, honour the physical, mental and spiritual, but you also have to help out with the emotional part.”

History of Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Movement
“History, History of HIV, and history of HIV and the Aboriginal movement is something we have forgotten about... once we know where it all started, what’s happened, what’s changed, then we can start building on that history. And how it’s changed.”

Sacred Circle of Life
“I can remember back to the beginning of diagnosis of being HIV (positive) and the importance of the circle...”

Thoughts:
Past, Present and Future

Feelings:
Connection: Changes

Response to:

Mental

Community

Family

Individual

Society

Emotional

Physical

Sacred Circle of Life

...Future Journey
Field Researcher Summit
March 6-8, 2010
Training 15 Field Researchers
Collection of 30 narratives